

Ranking Categories—WATER QUALITY
(BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER,
LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER/RANCHER,
SOCIOALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER/RANCHER)

Primary Resource Concern—

- **Water Quality Degradation—Nutrients in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality Degradation—Nutrients in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality Degradation—Pesticides in Groundwater**
- **Water Quality Degradation—Pesticides in Surface Water**
- **Water Quality Degradation—Excessive Sediment in Surface Water**

Secondary Resource Concern—

- **Fish and Wildlife—Inadequate Habitat (Threatened and Endangered Species, Declining Species, Species of Concern Addressed as a Special Environmental Concern) (only species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. Reference:**

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/equip/>

Eligible Land Uses—

- **Crop, Forest, Range, Pasture**

State Issues—

1. Answer the following question if the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). The agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

(a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)

2. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to nitrate-leaching potential. If neither applies leave the answers “NO”.

(a) A HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (130 points)

(b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH nitrate-leaching potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (75 points)

3. Answer the following question related to gully erosion. If not applicable, leave answer as “NO”.

Measurable gully erosion (classic or ephemeral) occurs on ALL fields of the application. (20 points)

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4. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Potential Soil Loss Index (PSLI). If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”.
 - (a) PSLI of HIGH exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (130 points)
 - (b) A combination of MEDIUM and/or HIGH PSLI exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (75 points)
5. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). If none apply, leave the answers “NO”.
 - (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) identified high priority (HP) TMDL watershed for dissolved oxygen (DO), and/or E.coli/fecal coliform bacteria (FCB), and/or total suspended solids (TSS), and/or eutrophication, but is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (20 points)
 - (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KDHE identified HP TMDL watershed for DO, and/or E.coli/FCB, and/or TSS, and/or eutrophication, but it is NOT a TMDL watershed targeted to meet the EPA Strategic Plan. (10 points)
6. Receiving water body is defined as permanent water bodies greater than 0.5 acres in size; rivers; streams, including U.S. Geological Survey blue line intermittent streams; and Food Security Act wetlands for which hydrology has not been altered. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to receiving water bodies. If neither applies, leave the answer as “NO”.
 - (a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 180 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with frequent flood frequency. (20 points)
 - (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located between 180.1 to 300 feet of a receiving water body or has a soil with Occasional flood frequency. (10 points)
7. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) identified sensitive groundwater areas. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”.
 - (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (15 points)

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- (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KGS identified sensitive groundwater area. (10 points)
8. If applicable, answer ONE of the following four questions related to drainage into federal reservoirs. If none apply, leave the answer "NO".
- (a) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located within a hydrologic unit code (HUC) 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (10 points)
- (b) The entire unit of concern (100 percent) is located in a HUC 8 main-stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (7 points)
- (c) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100 percent, is located within a HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to a federal reservoir. (5 points)
- (d) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, is located in a HUC 8 main-stem drainage that is upstream of a federal reservoir, above the HUC 11 drainage that is directly adjacent to the federal reservoir. (2 points)
9. If applicable, answer ONE of the following two questions related to Kansas Source Water Assessment Areas (KSWAA). If neither applies, leave the answers "NO".
- (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a KSWAA. (10 points)
- (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KSWAA. (5 points)
10. Answer the following question related to Kansas Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Action Plans.
- Any part of the unit of concern is located in a Priority WRAPS implementation area. (10 points)

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11. If applicable, answer ALL of the following questions related to at risk species. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

(a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) 12 digit watershed that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (1 point)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

(b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within 300 feet of a stream that contains an at-risk aquatic species **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the at-risk aquatic species habitat. Only AQUATIC species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (2 points)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

(c) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a terrestrial at-risk species habitat area, Bobwhite Quail Initiative areas, or pheasant initiative area **and** treatment of the resource concern will have a direct benefit to the terrestrial at-risk species habitat, bobwhite quail habitat or pheasant initiative area. Only bobwhite quail, pheasants, or TERRESTRIAL species identified for this ranking category on the Statewide At-Risk Species Listing are eligible for this resource concern. (2 points)

Reference:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ks/programs/financial/eqip/>

(d) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Greater Prairie-Chicken (GPC) or Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) priority habitat area and native grass and forbs will be planted according to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) standards and specifications on a minimum of 40 contiguous acres. (5 points)

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12. Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance

Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost-share programs. (5 points)

13. Answer EACH of the following four questions related to nutrient management and waste utilization.

(a) The nutrient management plan includes the application of livestock waste that will be applied by injection/subsurface application. (5 points)

(b) As a part of the nutrient management plan, split nitrogen applications will be implemented for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation, to provide nutrients at the time for maximum crop utilization. (5 points)

(c) The nutrient management plan includes the application of phosphorous by band applying for all applicable nutrient applications in the rotation. (5 points)

(d) Wastewater applied by irrigation will use an approved irrigation scheduling system. (5 points)

Local Issues–

Answer the following questions related to the application:

1. Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)

2. Application includes at least one conservation practice (CP) with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the eFOTG. (60 points)

3. CPs are scheduled to be completed within four years. (60 points)

4. Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2013. (50 points)

5. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (50 points)

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6. If applicable, where livestock are wintered on grazing land where perennial streams are located, the plan of operations will limit or manage livestock access to the streams. Limiting or managing livestock access may include, but are not limited to, alternate watering locations, controlled access points, or limiting time of access by livestock during winter months by either removal of livestock, or grazing systems where livestock are rotated. (The 1:24,000 scale geospatial hydro-layer will be used to define perennial streams.) (10 points)

7. Greater than or equal to 33.3 percent of the unit of concern will be planted to native grass and forbs according to NRCS eFOTG standards and specifications. (10 points)

| 8. Native plant species will be used in a financially-assisted vegetative CP.
(10 points)